CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector, comprising:

a generally U-shaped structure comprising a base coupled to a first wall and a second wall, the first wall and second wall being at opposite ends of the base, and the first wall and second wall being substantially perpendicular to the base;

a first bracing member coupled to a first end of the first wall of the generally U-shaped structure;

a second bracing member coupled to a first end of the second wall of the generally U-shaped structure; and

the first wall, second wall, first bracing member, and second bracing member having a plurality of openings.

2. The connector of claim 1 wherein the base is upwardly angled.

3. The connector of claim 1 wherein the base is downwardly angled.

4. The connector of claim 1 wherein the generally U-shaped structure, the first bracing member, and the second bracing member are integral.

5. The connector of claim 1 wherein first bracing member and the second bracing member are generally perpendicularly coupled to the first wall and the second wall of the generally U-shaped structure.

6. The connector of claim 1 wherein the first wall, second wall, first bracing member, and second bracing member are generally rectangular.

7. A connector, comprising:

a retaining structure comprising a base having a generally polygonal shape; and a first face and a second face, the first face and the second face having a top edge, a bottom edge, a first edge and a second edge, the bottom edge of the first face and the second face coupled to the base to define a space sized to engage a building member; and

a first bracing member coupled to the second edge of the first face; and

a second bracing member coupled to the second edge of the second face, wherein the first face, second face, first bracing member, and second bracing member have a plurality of openings.

8. The connector of claim 7 wherein the base is upwardly angled.

9. The connector of claim 7 wherein the base is downwardly angled.

10. The connector of claim 7 wherein the retaining structure, the first bracing member, and the second bracing member are integral.

11. The connector of claim 7 wherein the first bracing member is generally perpendicularly coupled to the second edge of the first face and the second bracing member is perpendicularly coupled to the second edge of the second face.

12. The connector of claim 7 wherein the first face, the second face, the first bracing member, and the second bracing member are generally rectangular.

13. A connector comprising:

a first bracket comprising a first planar member having a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side;

a second planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first side of the first planar member coupled to the second side of the second planar member;

a third planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first send of the first planar member coupled to the second end of the third planar member, wherein first planar member extends generally in a x-direction, the second planar member extends generally in a y-direction, and the third planar member extends generally in a z-direction; and

a plurality of openings positioned on the first, second, and third planar members, wherein the first bracket is adapted for use at a corner of a building.

14. The connector of claim 13 further comprising:

a second bracket comprising a fourth planar member having a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side;

a fifth planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first side of the fourth planar member coupled to the second side of the fifth planar member;

a sixth planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first end of the fourth planar member coupled to the second end of the sixth planar member, wherein fourth planar member extends generally in a x-direction, the fifth planar member extends generally in a y-direction, and the sixth planar member extends generally in a z-direction; and

a plurality of openings positioned on the fourth, fifth, and sixth planar members, wherein the first bracket and the second bracket are positioned at the corner to define a space sized to receive a building element.

15. The connector of claim 13 wherein the corner is an inner portion of the corner.

16. The connector of claim 13 wherein the corner is an outer portion of the corner.

17. The connector of claim 14 wherein the building element is a hip ridge beam, header beam, or other load-bearing beam.

18. The connector of claim 13 wherein the first, second, and third planar members are integral.

19. The connector of claim 14 wherein the fourth, fifth, and sixth planar members are integral.

20. The connector of claim 14 wherein the first planar member is generally perpendicularly coupled to the second planar member and the third planar member.

21. The connector of claim 14 wherein the fourth planar member is generally perpendicularly coupled to the fifth planar member and the sixth planar member.

22. The connector of claim 14 wherein the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth planar members are generally rectangular.

23. A connector comprising:

a first bracket comprising a first planar member having a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side;

a second planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first side of the first planar member generally perpendicularly coupled to the second side of the second planar member;

a third planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first end of the first planar member generally perpendicularly coupled to the second end of the third planar member, wherein first planar member extends generally in a x-direction, the second planar member extends generally in a y-direction, and the third planar member extends generally in a z-direction, and wherein a plurality of openings are positioned on the first, second, and third planar members;

a second bracket comprising a fourth planar member having a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side;

a fifth planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first side of the fourth planar member generally perpendicularly coupled to the second side of the fifth planar member;

a sixth planar member comprising a first end, a second end, a first side, and a second side, the first end of the fourth planar member generally perpendicularly coupled to the second end of the sixth planar member, wherein fourth planar member extends generally in a x-direction, the fifth planar member extends generally in a y-direction, and the sixth planar member extends generally in a z-direction; and

a plurality of openings positioned on the fourth, fifth, and sixth planar members, wherein the first bracket and the second bracket are positioned at a corner of a building to define a space sized to receive a building element.

24. The connector of claim 23 wherein the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth planar members are generally rectangular.

25. The connector of claim 23 wherein the corner is an inner portion of a corner.

26. The connector of claim 23 wherein the corner is an outer portion of a corner.

27. The connector of claim 23 wherein the building element is a hip ridge beam, header beam, or other load-bearing beam.